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ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Map of Detour

PASSABLE, BUT DRIVE WITH CARE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS



The Federal-Aid Highway System

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is cooperating with the State highway departments in the construction of a system of main highways for the Nation. The system, known as the Federal-aid highway system, includes 170,000 miles of the most important roads in the country, connecting at State lines and reaching nearly every city of 5,000 population or more.

In the construction of these roads the Federal Government pays up to 50 per cent of the cost, except in the public-land States, where this amount is increased, and the remainder is paid by the State. The various State highway departments have charge of the preparation of plans, letting of contracts, and supervision of construction, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture through the Bureau of Public Roads.

On January 1, 1924, there had been completed 27,212 miles of Federal-aid roads, and 18,647 miles were under construction. Eight thousand three hundred and eighty miles of completed roads were opened to traffic during the preceding year.

In addition to the construction work which has been carried on with Federal aid, a considerable part of the Federal-aid highway system has already been built by the States and counties, the total mileage surfaced up to January 1, 1924, being estimated at 60,000 miles.

Forest Highways

WEST of the 103d meridian the people of the United States possess nearly 153,000,000 acres of National Forest lands, rich in undeveloped or partly developed resources. To develop these resources, consisting of timber, water power and mineral, agricultural and grazing lands, roads are being built. These roads are to serve also as means of protecting the forests against the danger of fires, and of making accessible to the tourist the matchless beauty of America's scenic wonderland.

As the forests are owned by the United States Government, and constitute in several States a very large part of the total area of the State, the Federal Government recognizes its obligation to build roads through these areas, not only for the protection and development of the forests, but also to connect sections of the States lying on opposite sides of the forests. To this end the forest roads are being coordinated with the Federal-aid highway system and State systems, thus closing gaps in the main roads which might not otherwise be improved.

Construction of forest roads has been carried on by the Bureau of Public Roads, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, with appropriations and authorizations totaling \$47,000,000.

Up to January 1, 1924, 1,730 miles of forest highways had been completed at a cost of \$16,365,415, and 950 miles additional were under construction.

This construction is an investment from which your children will reap the benefit.

TO THE PUBLIC:

We are anxious to serve you to the greatest possible degree with passable detours during construction. Everything is done to make these detours safe for the traveling public. Signs are erected at dangerous points, barricades are placed across roads which are too dangerous for use, and lanterns are placed, where construction is in progress, to warn of danger at night. Mutilation or removal of these signs, barricades, or lanterns may be the cause of accidents involving personal injury or death. Don't Do It.

THOS. H. MACDONALD,
Chief, U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.